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## DIDLAKE RETIREMENT

# End of an era in Men's Ministry

By William H. Perkins Jr.  
Editor

Jim Didlake will close out a 32-year career in the Men's Ministry Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board when he walks out of his office for the final time on July 31.

"The thing I will miss the most are the people, the volunteers who in the name of Jesus always come to the rescue of anyone who needs their help, literally across the world. They are part of my family. Mississippi Baptists are the greatest folks anywhere," he said.

As Didlake departs, he leaves a department with greatly expanded responsibilities compared to his beginnings there all those years ago, and he is confident his right-hand man for the past ten years, department consultant [redacted] will continue to carry the ministry forward as the director position.

"I'm excited for Don," Didlake said. "He has a real heart for this work. He was my associate at Central Hills Retreat many years ago. He was a volunteer before he accepted the full-time consultant position in the Men's Ministry Department. I'm confident he will take the program



[redacted] of the Men's Ministry Department, discusses transition matters in the department. Gann will be replaced by William H. Perkins Jr.)

assume leadership of the department and take it to greater heights than we ever thought possible."

Didlake, a Crystal Springs native, holds an undergraduate degree in chemistry ('66) from Mississippi State University in Starkville and a masters degree in religious education ('68)

from New Orleans Seminary.

His first place of service after seminary was First Church in Russellville, Ky., as minister of education, youth, and administration. From there, he went to First Church, Brandon, as minister of education and

administration. When Paul Harrell, then the Brotherhood Director for the convention board, called about serving in that department, Didlake responded affirmatively.

see DIDLAKE on p. 8

## Dems vow to counter recent high court ruling

WASHINGTON (BP) — Democrats in the U.S. Senate unveiled a bill July 9 to counter the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in support of the religious freedom of business owners in the Hobby Lobby case.

The Protect Women's Health From Corporate Interference Act would bar any federal law, including the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA), from exempting an employer from abiding by the Obama administration's abortion/contraception mandate. That rule, implemented by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to enforce the 2010 healthcare reform law, requires employers to provide for their workers drugs and devices that can potentially cause abortions.

In its June 30 opinion, the 5-4 Supreme Court majority relied on RFRA in ruling for the religious liberty rights of Hobby Lobby and other family owned, for-profit businesses that conscientiously objected to the mandate to pay for abortifacients (abortion-inducing chemicals).

RFRA, a 1993 law that was approved nearly unanimously by Congress and signed into law by Democrat U.S. President Bill

see RULING on p. 8

## MC STUDENT IN RIO FOR WORLD CUP



Mississippi College (MC) student Grant Gilliam (second from right), raises a yellow card resembling what a referee uses to call a rule violation in a soccer match, to get the attention of a soccer fan near Rio de Janeiro's Maracanã Stadium during a June 22 World Cup match. Gilliam and his teammates were part of a group of 11 Southern Baptist college students and two student ministry leaders who traveled to Rio de Janeiro for the 2014 World Cup as part of the International Mission Board's student mobilization efforts to partner with Brazilian Baptists during the tournament. (Photo courtesy of International Mission Board)

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## From the editor

WILLIAM PERKINS

### We're No. 1, again

**C**ongratulations, my fellow Mississippians. We're the leaders of the pack once again, this time in public corruption in the whole of the United States.

So says a study entitled, *The Impact of Public Officials' Corruption on the Size and Allocation of U.S. State Spending*, published earlier this year in the *Public Administration Review of the American Society of Public Administrators* in Washington, D.C.

Co-authored by Choe Liu, an assistant professor at City University of Hong Kong who holds a Ph.D. in Public Affairs, and John L. Mikesell, Chancellor's Professor in the School of Public and Environmental Affairs at Indiana University in Bloomington, the study's abstract states:

*This article demonstrates the impact of public officials' corruption on the size and allocation of U.S. state spending. Extending two theories of "excessive" government expansion, the authors argue that public officials' corruption should cause state spending to be artificially elevated. Corruption increased state spending over the period 1997-2008. During that time, the 10 most corrupt states could have reduced their total annual expenditure by an average of \$1,308 per capita - 5.2 percent of the mean per capita state expenditure - if corruption had been at the average level of the states. Moreover, at the expense of social sectors, corruption is likely to distort states' public resource allocations in favor of higher-potential "bribe-generating" spending and items directly beneficial to public officials, such as capital, construction, highways, borrowing, and total salaries and wages. The authors use an objective, concrete, and consistent measurement of corruption, the number of convictions.*

That's a mouthful, for sure. The authors' conclusions, though, are crystal clear. There's no other state that can top Mississippi when it comes to the theft of our hard-earned tax dollars by public officials. Although there are plenty of honest public officials around, anyone who has lived in the state for even a brief period

of time has to know corruption is rampant. It's just painful to have it pointed out in such a clinical, indisputable manner.

"The authors of the latest corruption study define the word 'corruption' to mean the 'misuse of public office for private gain.' But such corruption isn't limited to the political realm," writes Bob Adelman, a commentator and former investment advisor, in the June 23 issue of *The New American* magazine.

"When the word is applied to the culture itself, however, the word means 'utterly broken.' Aristotle and Cicero used the term to mean the 'abandonment of good habits.' And that is the real cost of political corruption: It seeps into the wellspring of human behavior and corrupts it, resulting in what is happening in Mississippi.

Now that really is a painful description of life in Mississippi, because if it's accurate - especially the part about corruption poisoning "the wellspring of human behavior" in the state - then we are failing as Mississippi Baptists.

In a state that has one of the highest per capita counts in the entirety of the Southern Baptist Convention, it means we have failed to move ourselves, our state, and our fellow Mississippians toward the model lifestyle exemplified by our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The huge per capita number of Baptists in Mississippi also means, in terms of statistics, that many of our corrupted officials and citizens must be Baptist.

How can we model Christian behavior, when we don't behave like Christ? No one can be perfect of course, but when so many of us so willingly and visibly disgrace ourselves with sin - drinking, gambling, stealing, wrongful sexual desires, hate, greed, gluttony, and the like - who can blame those closely observing us when they conclude our walk doesn't match our talk?

On a day sooner than many of us anticipate, we will each face an accounting of our faithfulness to the Great Commission (Matt. 28:18-20). We have a long and difficult road ahead of us if we are to win Mississippi for Jesus, as we have been so clearly instructed to do.

It's time we got ourselves right, and got started.

## How to halt the nosedive

**T**he Pastors Task Force on Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Evangelistic Impact & Declining Baptisms reported their findings in May. This diverse group of 15 Southern Baptists summarized their work into five recommendations:

- Pray for spiritual awakening.
- Model personal evangelism and provide pathways.
- Create a disciple-making culture.
- Serve the next generation.
- Celebrate evangelism and baptisms.

The report has brought us all to exactly the same correct question: "What is the next step?"

The SBC is fully into a rapidly accelerating nosedive toward a devastating crash. We must remember that more than 4,500 missionary families around the world also ride with us.

The situation is critical. It is far worse than many Southern Baptists realize and it's far later than most Southern Baptists would have ever thought, but hear this: It is so much more doable to reverse this impending disaster than anyone would ever imagine - but we absolutely must take the next step correctly.

To dare suggest the next step, is not in any way assuming that any single proposal is the only one possible. However, my (and many others') worldwide research and discovery indicates that the following approach is a definite next step that has the greatest potential to deliver Southern Baptists from our imminent disaster.

I am currently reviewing the report of the first six months of the next step initiative undertaken by the network of churches called the Tennessee Baptist Convention (TBC). This strategy has come to be known as 1-5-1 Harvest Plants.

Through this model, in the course of a year, a church or small group within the church will seek to plant at least one off-campus, weekday, small, evangelistic, discipling gathering of approximately 10-15 people who are almost exclusively lost and unchurched people.

These plants are usually found to be intuitive, organic and viral, and therefore easier to start and multiply while requiring little or no money. This is the first "1" of 1-5-1.

Next, the prayer and goal is that at least five new believers will be won to faith and baptized through the new plant (the "5" of 1-5-1), and then another new harvest plant will be planted by that group by the end of the year (the final "1" of 1-5-1).



Guest opinion  
with Bobby Welch

These plants can be one or more of three types of Harvest Plants: an off-campus branch of an existing group (like a Sunday School class, etc.), a new off-campus group, or a new church.

More than 700 TBC commitments were made to plant one or more of these three types of Harvest Plants. In the past six months 373 plants have been reported. One hundred and forty of these reporting plants won and baptized one or more persons, which came to a combined total of 743 won to Christ and baptized.

These results indicate an approximate ratio of two baptisms per plant and a 5:6 ratio of persons required to reach and baptize one person within six months. Even though most of these are young, start-up plants, people familiar with evangelism ratios will sometimes refer to such ratios as world-class evangelism/discipleship ratios.

Throughout the research development stage and the pre-launch and official launch stages, the 1-5-1 Harvest Plants model has shown there are certain absolutes that must be embraced:

■ All churches of all sizes, all types of buildings, all locations, and with attendance from a few to the thousands, must have equal access and opportunity to succeed at the next step.

■ Lost persons must be the primary focus. 1-5-1 has no interest in only planting non-evangelistic plants.

■ Baptisms is a measurable demonstration of discipleship and is a primary indicator of plant progress.

■ Outside of the church building is the place to plant. (Ever see a farmer plant his crop in the barn?)

■ Laypeople must be mobilized by returning to biblical discipleship via on-the-job training. If this does not occur almost immediately, we will surely die.

■ No money. It is impossible for churches to pay or buy their way out of this catastrophe. Plants can flourish with no funding and

see WELCH on p. 9

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# Profs: Religious freedom key to less religious violence

**NASHVILLE (BP)** — Rising death tolls in Iraq and Syria, where Muslim extremists are killing in the name of their faith, represent a stark contrast to the relative lack of religiously motivated killing among modern Christians — a contrast that seminary professors say is attributable to the principle of religious liberty.

Religious violence declines wherever religious liberty "has been preached and practiced," Rick Durst, professor of historical theology at Golden Gate Seminary in Mill Valley, Ca., told Baptist Press (BP).

He added that Baptists have played a significant role in establishing religious liberty as a tenet of modern Christianity. Baptists "have asserted from the beginning that the Gospel does not need government preference, that the conscience is inalienable and what we really need is a free church in a free state," Durst said.

## History

Christians used to kill with some frequency over matters of doctrine. There was the Spanish Inquisition, Calvin's Geneva, England's notorious Bloody Mary, the drowning of Anabaptists, the Crusades, and more.

Timothy Paul Jones, a Southern Seminary faculty member and author of *Christian History Made Easy*, told Baptist Press, "It was the intermingling of church authority and civil authority that made it possible for persons who claimed to be Christians to have the state execute others who also professed Christ."

Civil and church authority first mixed in the early fourth century when the Roman emperor Constantine legalized Christianity and made it the empire's preferred religion. Perhaps the first case of one Christian executing another occurred in the late fourth century when Roman emperor Magnus Maximus beheaded an eccentric ascetic named Priscillian.

Donatists, fourth- and fifth-century Christians who held that clergy who renounced their faith under persecution could never administer the sacraments again, claimed that some of their leaders were executed. No other sources corroborate their account and it may be an embellishment, Jones noted in written comments.

Donatists were persecuted and some may have died in prison without being executed.

Durst, who believes Donatists were executed, agreed that the mingling of church and civil government helped turn Christians from a persecuted sect into a power group prone to persecute. If a state prefers one religion, "you can invoke the state to enforce [the preferred] religion, to actually attempt to force the conscience," Durst said.

An early form of the Inquisition — a Roman Catholic movement that attempted to purge heretics from the church, at times by execution — began in the 1100s. In the mid-1200s, the Catholic theologian Thomas Aquinas said heretics "deserved not only to be separated from the church but eliminated from the world."

Jones noted that "in most instances, the church did not actually execute anyone. Instead, church officials declared someone to be a heretic. Then they handed over the offender to civil authorities to be executed."

While condemning all killing over religious doctrine, Jones wrote that Christians rarely, if ever, perceived themselves as killing fellow Christians.

"Whether rightly or wrongly, they saw



## DEATH BY BURNING

This illustration by Dutch painter and poet Jan Luyken depicts the 1671 execution of 16th-century Dutch Anabaptist Anken Hendriks, who was charged by the Spanish Inquisition with heresy. Hendriks' death came at a time when Christians set upon other Christians for their differing beliefs. (Public domain)

## DROWNING BELIEVERS

Execution by drowning, particularly of Anabaptists in the 16th century, was one of the many gruesome ways Christians were put to death over the centuries by fellow believers in an attempt to purify the church of those who were perceived to be heretics. (BP)



themselves as killing heretics who had rejected some essential aspect of the church's faith," said Jones, who is Southern Seminary's Greens Professor of Christian Family Ministry. "Many of those who did the killing as well as those they killed may not actually have been believers in Jesus Christ."

Still, the Inquisition persisted in various forms for centuries and faithful believers were among those executed. Sixteenth-century Reformers also executed those seen as doctrinally deviant. That included the Anabaptists (European Christians who baptized by immersion) and Michael Servetus (a rival of Calvin who denied the Trinity).

## Change begins

An initial hint of religious liberty came from Martin Luther, Jones said. "In 1517 in the Ninety-Five Theses, Martin Luther wrote that 'the burning of heretics is contrary to the will of the Holy Spirit,'" Jones said.

"Later, Luther distinguished between mere heretics and heretics who were publicly blasphemous or caused public unrest. The latter were to be executed by the state, according to Luther, and he saw the Anabaptists as part of that latter category."

In Luther's wake, several key factors helped end theologically motivated killing, Jones said. Among them:

■ In the 1600s, British writers like John Milton argued for liberty to speak and act "according to conscience," but they only applied that liberty to vying Protestant sects and not to Roman Catholics or non-Christians.

The Puritan leader Oliver Cromwell, who was England's head of state during the years when there was no monarchy, went a step further, saying he would rather "Mahometanism [Islam] be permitted amongst us than that one of God's children should be persecuted."

After the monarchy was restored in 1689, Nonconformists, like Baptists and Congregationalists, were granted freedom of worship.

■ In continental Europe, a conflict between Protestants and Catholics in the 1600s known as the Thirty Years War took 10 million lives and involved "senseless pillaging," Jones said. The conflict "seems to have pressed many Europeans toward a positive perspective on tolerance of persons with differing religious beliefs," he said.

■ In America, Maryland passed a law in 1649 allowing anyone who believed in the Trinity to practice their religion freely. Roger Williams, a theologian who "became a Baptist but then quickly became an ex-Baptist," founded Rhode Island as a colony with religious freedom, "requiring nothing more than a belief in one God," Jones said.

"Religious toleration emerged in post-Reformation Europe as a practical measure when governments were no longer able to enforce religious conformity. When early forms of religious toleration first emerged, it was more a temporary concession for the sake of peace than a permanent solution for the sake of freedom. But this concession eventually developed into an ideal," Jones said.

Rex Butler, professor of church history

and patristics at New Orleans Seminary, cited 1648 as a key date for the end of doctrinally motivated Christian killing. That was when a series of treaties known as the Peace of Westphalia ended the Thirty Years War.

He noted England's civil war and France's ongoing religious conflict in the 18th century as factors that led Europeans to seek an end to religious violence.

"In the aftermath of these religious conflicts, religious and philosophical thinkers of the 17th and 18th centuries began to look for different ways to approach religion," Butler wrote in comments to BP. "As Justo González, author of *The Story of Christianity*, posed the question: 'Was there not a more tolerant, more profound, and even more Christian way to serve God...?'"

"The answers varied from the rationalism of the philosophical Age of Enlightenment to the heart Christianity of the Pietists and Revivalists and the separation of church and state in America. Ultimately, over the past three centuries, the modern secular state developed in Europe and America and brought with it another series of challenges for the church and the state."

Butler added that conflicts between Christians did not totally end in the 1700s. For example, the Spanish Inquisition "was not completely ended until 1834," and Catholics and Protestants fought in Northern Ireland well into the modern era.

"Since the 18th century, however, Christian wars of religion have declined," he said.

Durst credited 16th-century Anabaptists with pioneering the idea of a free church in a free state. Baptists carried on that idea and brought it to the New World, where they helped codify it in America's founding documents.

## The contrasts

One reason Muslims persist in theologically motivated killing, including conflicts in the Middle East between Sunnis and Shiites, is that Islam does not embrace the separation of church and state, Durst said.

"Islam has always historically embraced 'sword evangelism,' that state and mosque are one," he said.

Another contrast between Christianity and Islam is that Christians have apologized for the medieval Crusades, in which Christian armies warred against Muslims, but Muslims largely have not apologized for their religiously motivated killings, Durst said.

Durst cautioned against skeptics' overblown portrayals of religiously motivated killings. He said non-religious governments like China and the Soviet Union "are millions and millions of violent deaths ahead of anything religion has ever done."

The brutality of some atheist and Islamic nations should remind believers that religious liberty emerges from Christian theology, Durst said. If America loses its Judeo-Christian foundation, its citizens could lose the freedom to practice their religion, he said.

"The flower of religious liberty blooms out of the hearts of Baptist and Quaker congregations in America," Durst said. "However, when you take that concept and... put it into governmental documents like the Constitution and the amendments, then that concept is a bit like a cut flower. It's been cut off from the roots but established as a principle of government."

"How long do cut flowers stay fresh? That's what concerns me."

Here in Mississippi we are keenly aware of the fact that every year a list of names is released to be the names given to hurricanes born in the Atlantic. They used to be only feminine names but now they include masculine names. While we keep up with all of them, if they come into the Gulf of Mexico, we watch and listen even more carefully. For it is very possible that we will feel the effects and have the opportunity of meeting that storm up close and personal. Thirty-two years ago a storm named Didlake blew into the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and has remained these three decades. He came to serve in Men's Ministry and help men to understand missions and involvement in the call of Jesus with hands-on opportunities. While his heart was as big as our world, his compassion and care and unique giftedness in making a difference for our Lord was never more clear and concise than in the middle of a disaster. Not only did he help people prepare for disasters, he was time and again front and center and first on the scene to help us maximize our immediate and ongoing response to help people affected by disasters. This storm called Didlake came and stirred up things and without a doubt has left a mark on the land.

Like natural storms, this storm has charted its own path. Whether tornadoes or hurricanes, you probably have noticed that they go where they decide and not where we would prefer they go. In a sense that's true with Didlake, except he has spent these years seeking a path from God that would help people in need and help men to grow in their walk with God



With Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

## A Storm Named Didlake

and their service to our Lord. While he is uniquely Mississippi and has been a special treasure to all of us, he has cut a path all across the planet. When disaster strikes, whether natural or manmade, the North American Mission Board and International Mission Board often request that Jim Didlake be a part of the response team put in place with the help that is needed. From floods in Central America to the manmade tragedies of 9-11, Jim Didlake has been on the scene to help. From Russia to the Gaza Strip, Jim has been there to care, to coordinate, to communicate the love of Christ. It has been amazing. From tsunamis in Thailand to hurricanes in Pascagoula, from tornadoes in Missouri to earthquakes in Haiti, to ice storms in Clarksdale and wildfires in Bolivia, he has been a servant of God on the scene.

Like other storms, this storm also left behind a mess. The difference is this storm left a good

mess. You see, the problem is as Jim Didlake has moved from church to church and association to association encouraging people to be on mission for Jesus, there were people who then were left with the struggle of their life being rearranged to be where God wanted them to be doing what He wanted them to be doing. A kind and thoughtful communicator, he would gently put you on the spot and encourage you to become the answer for many of life's problems. The Didlake storm was constantly calling for people to rearrange their time and schedule, their stuff and circumstances, in order to do the Lord's work. Before I ever met Jim Didlake, I met a man whose life had been affected by Jim. This man who was a dear friend of mine said, "I never met a man who had such an impact on me as he did." Later, as I met Jim and had the privilege of working with him, I understood what he meant.

This Didlake storm has another interesting feature. Do you remember back in the spring of 2014 when the storms were rolling across the Midwest, there were several days that people shot incredible videos of twin tornadoes? That indeed is what happened with Storm Didlake. One of the storms is named Jim but the other one is named Marlene. For all of his years of service, she has been doing her part. Sometimes it was on the front lines alongside Jim and other times he was away from home and shelter and she was there taking care of the needs that would enable him to take care of the needs of others while all the time serving as a mom, a teacher, a church worker and a friend. She came and blessed folks all across our state and beyond.

Finally, like most storms come to an end, this one will conclude his ministry with the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board at the end of July. A third of a century he has served us and has served with us with grace and love and effectiveness. Those of us who know him have been affected by him and are grateful for him. Truth be known that many more people who do not even know his name or what he has done have been directly and dramatically affected by his ministry. I personally have been so wonderfully blessed by Jim Didlake, the storm and the man. My life has been enriched; my spirit has been lifted; and my walk with Jesus made closer because a storm named Didlake blew through Mississippi.

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## Just for the Record



NEW BETHEL AND LIBERTY CHURCHES, CARROLL COUNTY, join each 5th Sunday for a joint singing service. Shown is Gary Tanner, extreme left, singing with Liberty's children's choir.



Twenty-six WMU women from CALVARY CHURCH, BOGUE CHITTO, attended the Beth Moore Conference in Biloxi recently. Hal Hatten, pastor.

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The Board of Trustees of Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, Inc. announce the formation of a committee to select the ministry's President/Treasurer elect.



Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, Inc. cares for children in crisis in residential care at five locations across Tennessee and a state-wide foster care program. The President/Treasurer provides leadership and general supervision to this 123 year old ministry as approved and directed by the Board of Trustees.

Applications and nominations are being accepted during June and July 2014. To be considered, all applications and nominations must be received by the close of business Thursday, July 31st.

For detailed information regarding qualifications, skills and position duties, as well as the TBCH Employment application please see  
[www.tbch4kids.org/presidentelectsearch.html](http://www.tbch4kids.org/presidentelectsearch.html)

Interested candidates are requested to complete the TBCH Employment Application and forward it to president@tbch4kids.org or mail to:  
"President/Treasurer Search", P. O. Box 2206, Brentwood, TN 37024





# Study finds young evangelicals defying sexual liberalism

**NASHVILLE (BP)** — Young evangelical Christians are defying America's sexual liberalism despite predictions to the contrary, two Southern Baptist ethicists say in an op-ed based on a new study.

Some Americans outside conservative Christianity have forecast young evangelicals soon will reject the church's standards and join the culture in its liberal views on such issues as same-sex marriage, premarital sex, and gender identity, Russell D. Moore and Andrew Walker wrote July 9 in a piece at National Review Online.

That is not what research by a University of Texas sociologist indicates, they say.

A study by Mark Regnerus, an author and associate professor of sociology at the University of Texas-Austin, suggests "church-going Evangelical Christians are retaining orthodox views on Biblical sexuality, despite the shifts in broader American culture," Moore and Walker wrote.

Moore is president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC) in Nashville, and Walker is the ERLC's director of policy studies.

Among the study's findings, according to Moore and Walker, are:

- Only 11% of evangelicals between the ages of 18-39 say they support same-sex marriage, while a "solid majority" of self-identified atheists, agnostics, liberal Catholics, and liberal Protestants back it.

- About six percent of evangelicals support abortion rights, while more than 70% of their non-believing peers agree with such rights.

- Only five percent of evangelicals believe cohabitation by unmarried couples is acceptable, but about 70% of those who are religiously unaffiliated or consider themselves "spiritual but not religious" agree with cohabitation.

The study's results are both encouraging and unsurprising, given evangelicals' identification with Christ, Moore and Walker wrote.

The research suggests younger evangelicals "aren't hewing to the culture's expectation that they

conform to its values," they wrote in the National Review piece. "That's a welcome reality, especially given the significant cultural pressures that young Christians face in today's culture."

Moore and Walker wrote, "As American culture secularizes, the most basic Christian tenets seem ever more detached from mainstream American culture. Those who identify with Christianity, and who gather with the people of God, have already decided to walk out of step with the culture. ... Evangelical views on sexuality seem strange, but young Evangelicals in post-Christianizing America have already embraced strangeness by spending Sunday morning at church rather than at brunch."

Sexuality is not incidental to Christianity, they say. "Marriage and sex point, the Bible says, to a picture of the gospel itself, the union of Christ and his church," Moore and Walker wrote. "This is why the Bible spends so much time, as some critics would put it, 'obsessed' with sex."

That's why, historically, churches that liberalize on sex tend to liberalize themselves right out of Christianity itself."

Moore and Walker acknowledged the cultural shift. "The Sexual Revolution marches on, but it doesn't move forward without dissent," they wrote. "On any given Sunday morning, in your community, young Evangelicals are telling America that a sexual counter-revolution is ready to be born, again."

The results of his research, Regnerus says, "suggest that while a modest minority of Evangelicals under 40 profess what we might call more sexually liberal attitudes, it's not a significant minority," according to Moore and Walker's op-ed.

The study identifies an evangelical as someone who attends an evangelical Christian church weekly.

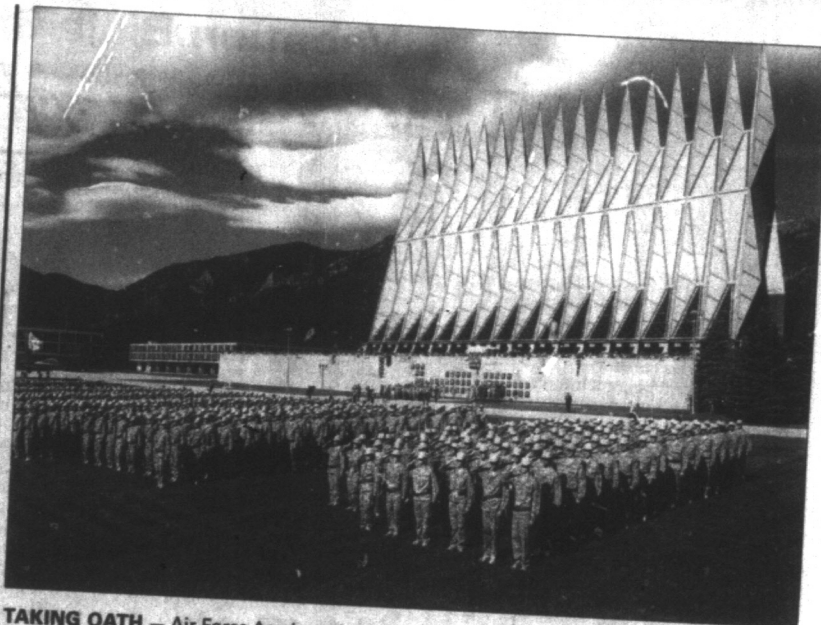
Regnerus shared part of his research in a presentation at the ERLC's April leadership summit on the Gospel and sexuality. The study surveyed more than 15,000 adults between the ages of 18-60, but Regnerus focused on respondents younger than 40.

The entire study will be released in September.

"...Evangelical views on sexuality seem strange, but young Evangelicals in post-Christianizing America have already embraced strangeness by spending Sunday morning at church rather than at brunch."

**Russell D. Moore and Andrew Walker**

**ERLC**



**TAKING OATH** — Air Force Academy basic cadets salute during a recent Oath of Office formation on the school's Colorado Springs, Co., campus. The Cadet Chapel, which contains areas for Protestants, Catholics, Jews, Buddhists, and Muslims, is in the background. (Photo courtesy of U.S. Air Force Public Relations)

## Air Force Academy draws fire over religious freedom

**COLORADO SPRINGS, Co. (BP)** — The Restore Military Religious Freedom Coalition has teamed up with the Family Research Council to deliver a petition with 105,000 signatures to the Air Force Academy seeking the restoration of First Amendment freedoms, particularly religious liberty, to cadets at the Colorado Springs school.

Religious freedom and the First Amendment have been a source of conflict at the academy in recent years. In 2011, administrators issued an apology for an email regarding the Operation Christmas Child outreach of Samaritan's Purse to send holiday gifts to impoverished children around the world.

Most recently, in March of this year, a cadet leader voluntarily removed a Bible verse from the whiteboard on his dorm room door after someone complained to the Military Religious Freedom Foundation and Air Force Academy Superintendent Lt. Gen. Michelle Johnson.

The verse, Galatians 2:20 reads, "I have been crucified with Christ therefore I no longer live, but Christ lives in me."

The petition, delivered June 25, directly relates to the Bible verse controversy. It voices concern about a culture of fear produced by eradicating religion. "If cadets are taught to be afraid of Bible

"The academy's recent actions and policy pronouncements, unless quickly corrected, will continue to chill speech among cadets, harm morale and create unnecessary confusion."

**Lt. Gen. (Rt.) Jerry Boykin**

**Family Research Council's executive vice president**

verses, how will they respond against terrorists who are willing to die for their cause?" the petition asks.

Mikey Weinstein, who leads an organization devoted to limiting religion in the military, had argued that the presence of the Bible verse "pours fundamentalist Christian gasoline" on an Air Force Academy religious culture he believes is "raging out of control."

Lt. Gen. (Rt.) Jerry Boykin, the Family Research Council's executive vice president, has urged that religious problems at the Air Force Academy be sorted out in a way that benefits the cadets and prevents further damage.

"The academy's recent actions and policy pronouncements,

unless quickly corrected, will continue to chill speech among cadets, harm morale and create unnecessary confusion," Boykin said.

Members of Congress have not remained silent on the issue. Rep. John Fleming (R-La.) praised the petition. "We need this kind of resounding effort by the American people echoing that message to the Air Force," Fleming said. "I believe we will make progress on this issue, and the efforts of citizens speaking out are playing a leading role in that fight."

Travis Weber, director of the Family Research Council's Center for Religious Liberty, said the petition speaks for many people in the military worried about their First Amendment rights.

"To remove a Bible verse from that whiteboard that the cadet would want to put on there is something that is seriously concerning," Weber said.

Boykin said the petition shows that people outside the military support the ability of soldiers to freely express their religion while in uniform. With more than 100,000 signatures, the American people "have spoken out loudly against such efforts to suppress speech and belief," he said.

Used by permission from WORLD News Service, a division of WORLD Magazine ([www.worldmag.com](http://www.worldmag.com)).

# Vacation Bible School



**BEULAH CHURCH, DECATUR:** June 22 - 25; enrollment, 66; Aubrie Howell, director.

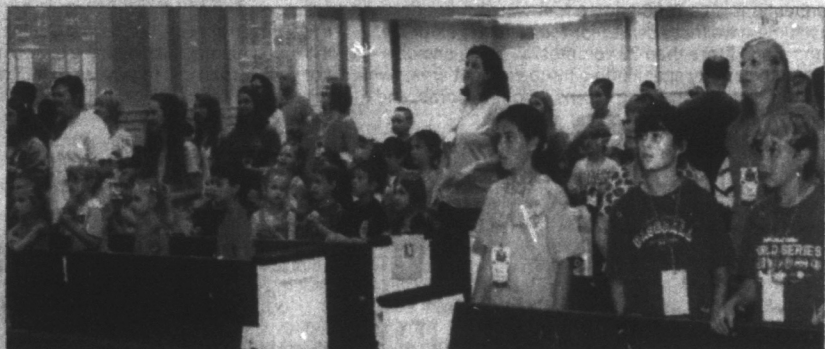
## In other VBS News:

> **High Hill Church, Neshoba County:** July 21 - 23, 6 - 8:30 p.m.

**GRACE UNITED CHURCH, DECATUR:** June 16 - 20; commencement, June 22; 35 - 40 enrolled; Zach Butler, Michelle Addy, and pastor Gary Felton led.



**NEW PROVIDENCE CHURCH, VARDAMAN:** June 2 - 6.



**FIRST CHURCH, VICKSBURG:** June 9 - 13, with offering of \$1610.78 going to help build a house in Haiti.



**BETHANY CHURCH, MARSHALL ASSOCIATION:** Enrollment, 45, with 9 professions of faith; mission offering going to Farrow Manor; Donald Worsham, pastor.



**CALVARY CHURCH, HATTIESBURG:** Participants collected over \$1700 in offerings to go toward missions.



**HIGHLAND CHURCH, SENATOBIA:** June 2 - 6; during the annual penny challenge, the boys brought \$480.37 and the girls brought \$495.01. The money helped with a mission team traveling to West Virginia June 23 - 26.



**CALVARY CHURCH, BOGUE CHITTO:** average attendance, 109; Melane Crosby, director; Hal Hetten, pastor.



## College News



For the fourth consecutive year, **PEARL RIVER ASSOCIATION** has travelled to the **BLUE MOUNTAIN COLLEGE** campus to work on various renovation projects. This year, Pearl River joined with Pocahontas Church from Clinton to begin renovations on a 7800-square foot warehouse which will house a new wellner's center for the college's students, faculty and staff. More than 30 volunteers - some shown - transformed the empty space into a large workout area, two offices, two classroom/meeting rooms, two restrooms, and a utility room, complete with electrical wiring.



The **BLUE MOUNTAIN COLLEGE** Alumni Association recently established the Carla F. Benson Alumni Class Challenge Award in honor of her 50 years of service. Carla Benson served as administrative assistant to five presidents before retiring as manager of gift processing and endowed scholarship in the Office of Institutional Advancement. The Benson Award is presented annually to the Young Alumni Class with the highest percentage of class donor participation in a fiscal year. The Class of 2008 won the Benson Award this year. Pictured (left to right) are Audrey Caldwell, president of the BMC Alumni Association, and Benson.



Trudy Cathy White gave the address at **BLUE MOUNTAIN COLLEGE'S** 141st commencement held on May 10. White, the daughter of Chick-fil-A founder Truett Cathy, and her husband served as missionaries to Brazil for 20 years before she returned to her native Atlanta area to found Lifeshape Foundation, and became involved in the family business's philanthropic endeavors.

## RISE UP & REACH OUT THROUGH BIBLE STUDY CONFERENCES

AUGUST 9, 2014 • 8:30 a.m. - noon

PETAL-HARVEY BC, PETAL

Dr. Larry LeBlanc

ALL PASTORS, SUNDAY SCHOOL, SMALL GROUP DIRECTORS, PRESCHOOL, CHILDREN, STUDENT AND ADULT BIBLE STUDY LEADERSHIP PLEASE COME TO THIS EVENT WE HAVE PLANNED FOR YOU. BELOW IS WHAT WE WILL OFFER.

### KEYNOTE MESSAGE

Importance of a healthy teaching and learning impact through our Sunday School and Small Groups to your church.

\*\*\*A new free tool offered to MTS churches by your MTS Baptist Convention Board\*\*\*

### MAPPING CENTER

We will assist your church select a clear and powerful VISION with a focus on the 1000 and Neighborhood Prayer calls. You may go to [www.mappingcenter.org](http://www.mappingcenter.org) to preview the new tool versions we are offering.

### MY HOPE AMERICA

We continue with My Hope America and seek to move our churches forward in 2014. We will share about resources that will be available for your church.

Preschool, Children, Student, and Adult Leadership Topics are:

Session 1: Healthy Reaching: Outreach, Ministry and Building Relationships in your Bible Study through Sunday School and Small Groups

Session 2: Healthy Teaching: Reaching Techniques for Bible Study through Sunday School and Small Groups

Pastors & General Officers Leadership Topics are:

Session 1: Healthy Reaching: Me & the Church; Me & the World/Others

Session 2: Healthy Leaders: God & Me; Me & My Family (Personal)

You may register online at [www.mtcb.org](http://www.mtcb.org)

For more information

contact Larry LeBlanc at [larry@mtcb.org](mailto:larry@mtcb.org)

or call 704-241-1111



**WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY** nursing students and assistant professor partnered with the Talladega Baptist Medical Dental Missions International (BMDMI) team for an evangelistic mission trip to Jesus de Otoro, Honduras in May. They are: (front row, left to right) Rachel Browning of Hattiesburg; Chad Stricker of Picayune; (second row, left to right) Courtney McLeod of Grand Bay, Ala.; Madelynn Gaines of Gulfport; Ginji Anderson of Hattiesburg; Jordan Whittle of Hattiesburg; Alison Rudolph of Laurel; Brandy Stricker of Picayune; (back row, left to right) Trae Barker of Lucedale; Shane Nelson of Beaumont; Lauren McCormick of Picayune; Sarah Clark of Sumrall; Felicia Browning, assistant professor of nursing; Ashley Barding of Petal, and David Caldwell of Petal.

## In other College

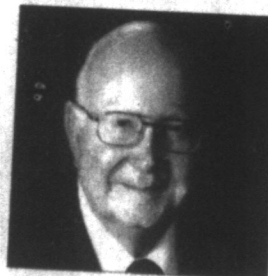
### News:

► The website [socialsciencecareers.org](http://socialsciencecareers.org) lists **Mississippi College** as number 1 among its top 15 institutions in the areas of criminology, Homeland Security, emergency management, loss prevention, criminal justice, and pre-law. MC's online program in the administration of justice ranked ahead of other institutions such as Penn State's World Campus, Wichita State University, the University of Texas of the Permian Basin, and the University of Nebraska at Kearney.

► **Mississippi College's** physician assistant program has received national accreditation. The Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant recently granted "continuing" accreditation following a rigorous evaluation of the medical program on the Clinton campus. Mississippi College is now among 187 schools, including the University of Kentucky, Wake Forest University, the University of Florida, the University of Southern California, Texas Tech and Saint Louis University with accredited PA programs.



The **MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE SCHOOL OF LAW** welcomes Wendy Scott as the first African-American to serve as dean. Scott, a Natchez native, has taught at the North Carolina Central University School of Law since 2006, including service as associate dean for academic affairs from 2009 to 2012. She previously worked as a professor at Tulane University Law School in New Orleans for 17 years, including service as vice dean for academic affairs. She is a graduate of Harvard University and New York University Law School.



Tommy King, president of **WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY**, was elected to a four-year term on the International Association of Baptist Colleges and Universities (IABCU) board during the annual meeting June 1-3 in Charleston, S.C.

# First Person: Know your heart, take care of it

## THIRD IN A SERIES

By William K. Harper  
Correspondent

*Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life (Proverbs 4:23 NL7).*

Heart disease is the leading cause of death in the United States. One in three women dies of heart disease. These are startling statistics, but we've heard them so often one wonders if we are turning a deaf ear.

Over the years, I've come to the conclusion that the biggest risk factor for heart disease and heart attack, in both men and women, is the belief, "It couldn't happen to me." Take this statement to heart. It's a pearl, a clinical truth that has borne the test of time for over 25 years. It is not normal to have chest pain. You should acknowledge chest pain as a yellow flag or blinking caution light that tells you to get it checked out.

Most of the time, pain from a heart attack follows a bell-shaped curve from onset to a peak with severe pain to the pain subsiding. If you survive the attack and the pain subsides, most people think it must not have been a heart attack. You will not know unless you have it checked out. If it turns out to be indigestion, which is the most common excuse I hear for not going to the doctor, then we can have a good laugh and you can get treatment for your heartburn.

You should have a baseline heart screening at age 40, par-

ticularly if you have a family history of heart disease. A basic screening includes a check of the following levels: blood pressure, cholesterol, glucose, and a resting EKG. A more definitive test is a CT scan to detect the calcium deposits in coronary arteries. The presence of calcium deposits correlates directly to coronary plaque and risk of coronary disease. Treadmill stress testing is frequently used also.

Elevated blood pressure is known as the "silent killer," yet more than 60% of the U.S. population has hypertension. Do you know your blood pressure? Elevated blood pressure can be effectively controlled by medication, if you take it as prescribed. Exercise and diet play key roles in the management of blood pressure, too.

Stroke is another area of concern. Stroke is a result of insufficient blood flow to the brain. There is no such thing as a "small stroke." You don't want one of any size. We need to do everything possible to avoid it. With a high incidence of elevated blood pressure, your risk of stroke is increased. If you are hypertensive or a diabetic, you need to be checking your blood pressure at home and reporting those numbers to your physician for monitoring.

Do you or your spouse snore? When I ask my patients if they



HARPER

snore, most of the time they say, "I don't think so." However, if the spouse is present, the answer may be a different story. There are different levels of snoring from the nudge-to-turn-over variety, to the I'm-going-to-another-room-to-get-some-sleep level.

Severe snoring, called obstructive sleep apnea, causes serious cardiac irregularities. These irregularities could result in congestive heart failure, stroke, or atrial fibrillation. Snoring is not a joke when it comes to strokes. When I review a patient's chart and see a cardiac irregularity, I now routinely ask patients if they snore.

I began this article with a quote from Proverbs about guarding your heart. Knowing and guarding the health of your heart may determine the physical quality of your life in the future. Session Two of the HealthWorks series, Heart Check, has information about the topics I've covered here and much more.

I hope you enjoy the HealthWorks DVD series. I believe when you understand having good health really works for you and your entire family and you begin to take your heart health seriously, you will see good things begin to happen.

This series is informative, entertaining, and wrapped in a Bible study format that just may inspire you to get started. Learn more about this series and place an order at HealthWorksDVD.com.

Harper is a cardiologist at Jackson Heart, located in the Colonnades at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center in Jackson.

## RULING

cont. from p.1

Clinton, protects the religious freedom of people by extending rights to the corporations they own, the court said.

Sen. Patty Murray (D-Wash.), sponsor of the bill to reverse the Hobby Lobby ruling, said her legislation "will ensure that no CEO or corporation can come between people and their guaranteed access to health care, period." Rep. Louise Slaughter (D-N.Y.) introduced a companion bill in the House.

The measure has 39 cosponsors, all Democrats. Abortion rights organizations, led by Planned Parenthood Federation of America and NARAL Pro-Choice America, endorsed the legislation, as did such groups as Americans United for Separation of Church and State and People for the American Way.

Russell D. Moore, president of the Ethics & Religious Lib-

erty Commission (ERLC) of the Southern Baptist Convention in Nashville, called for leaders in both the Senate and House of Representatives to resist efforts to weaken RFRA, which requires the government to have a compelling interest and to use narrow means to burden a person's religious exercise.

There should not be "a toggle switch" that the government uses to decide "who may and may not exercise religious liberty," Moore said in a statement for Baptist Press, "and as the Supreme Court rightly affirmed, American citizens do not forfeit their First Amendment rights simply because they engage in commerce."

And yet, now some would jeopardize religious freedom in order to fight their culture. Religious liberty is too important to everyone in this country to see it end up a dead trophy on the wall of the sexual revolutionaries."

The HHS regulation requires coverage of such drugs as Plan B

and other "morning-after" pills that possess a post-fertilization mechanism that can cause an abortion by preventing implantation of tiny embryos.

The rule also covers ella, which in a fashion similar to the abortion drug RU 486 can act even after embryo implantation on the uterus wall to end the life of the child.

GuideStone Financial Resources, the Southern Baptist Convention's health and financial benefits entity headquartered in Dallas, and two of the organizations in its health plan have challenged the mandate in court and have asked for a permanent injunction. No decision has been made on the request.

The Supreme Court's June 30 ruling came in challenges to the mandate by Hobby Lobby and Mardel, both owned by the evangelical Green family of Oklahoma City, and Conestoga Wood Specialties, which is operated by the pro-life, Mennonite Hahn family in Pennsylvania.



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FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH IN ECRU, MS IS PRAYING FOR A BIVOCATIONAL WORSHIP PASTOR. If interested, send resume to 85 Friendship Road, Ecru, MS. 38841, or email to [Jonathan.baker@fbccru.com](mailto:Jonathan.baker@fbccru.com)

ELLISTOWN BAPTIST CHURCH IS INTERESTED IN HIRING A FULL-TIME MUSIC DIRECTOR / YOUTH MINISTER. Ellistown Baptist is located in Blue Springs, MS close to the Toyota plant. We have close to 400 members and have an average morning worship attendance of nearly 200. We ask that any interested party email a resume to [moorewelterh@gmail.com](mailto:moorewelterh@gmail.com).

ENON BAPTIST CHURCH IN GRENADA, MS IS SEEKING A PART-TIME MUSIC DIRECTOR. If interested please submit a resume to Music Search Committee, 2804 Carrollton Road, Grenada, MS 38901 or by e-mail to [enonbaptistchurch@outlook.com](mailto:enonbaptistchurch@outlook.com)

OAK GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH IN MERIDIAN, MS IS LOOKING FOR A PART-TIME YOUTH MINISTER. Please send resume to: Oak Grove Baptist Church, Attn: Personnel Committee, 801 Oak Grove Drive, Meridian, MS 39301.

PART-TIME YOUTH MINISTER NEEDED AT NEW SIGHT BAPTIST. Please send resumes to: Youth Minister Search Committee, 629 Forest Trail, Brookhaven, MS 39601.

MORGAN CHAPEL BAPTIST CHURCH OF STURGIS, 15 MILES FROM STARKVILLE/MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY, IS SEEKING A BI-VOCATIONAL MINISTER OF YOUTH. Please send resumes to Wayne Carpenter, 289 Tom St., Sturgis, MS 39759 or to [morganann75@yahoo.com](mailto:morganann75@yahoo.com)

OAK GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH IN MERIDIAN, MS IS LOOKING FOR A PART-TIME SECRETARY FOR 2 DAYS A WEEK (10 HOURS TOTAL). Must have computer skills and some bookkeeping. Please send resume to: Oak Grove Baptist Church, Attn: Myra Qualls, 801 Oak Grove Drive, Meridian, MS 39301.

HARMONY BAPTIST CHURCH, QUITMAN, MS IS SEEKING A PASTOR. Send resumes to Harmony Baptist Church, c/o Pastor Search Committee, 5357 Highway 18 West, Quitman, MS 39355.

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# BIBL i O C I P H E R

XPHM GDQT VHGFQ FMXL PQJ, RFX FR

DEDQM XPB GNLCT QMXL PQG RKDUH;

ILC DKK XPHB XPDX XDWH XPH GNLCT

GPDKK RHCQGP NQXP XPH GNLCT.

JDXXPHN XNHMBX-GQO: IQIXB-XNL

Clue: N = W

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Mark 12:40

By Charles Marx, 1932-2004, © 2005

## Submission Guidelines

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published.

Preferred method: news may be submitted electronically to the e-mail address below, and must be included in the message segment of an e-mail form. Secondary method: news may be typewritten or neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper and mailed. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone. Due to ever-present virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments in JPEG format are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs must be submitted electronically via e-mail, as attachments in JPEG format. Hard copy photographs mailed through the postal service will not be accepted. Photographs must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. Photographs containing inappropriate gestures and objectionable clothing will not be published. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items that do not reproduce well on newsprint are generally not publishable.

There is no guarantee that news items and/or photographs will be published, and unsolicited material will not be acknowledged or returned. All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date. Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. These guidelines are not meant to be exhaustive.

Submit news to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

## WELCH

cont. from p.2

very little money for training.

If you'll catch fish, you will find those fish will have all the coins needed for Jesus and you (Matthew 17:27). Free materials are available online through the Tennessee Baptist Convention website.

■ Ethnic plants are absolutely imperative. Most churches and Christians now have world missions opportunities right in their backyards (no passports, shots, days off from work, etc., required). All or almost all of TBC's 1-5-1 ethnic church plants have required no funding other than perhaps some training materials.

■ Multiplication will make the difference between our past and future. It can cure ingrown and ill-formed classes, groups and churches, etc.

■ Cooperative Program giving is an excellent way to teach demonstrated discipleship and sharing, along with home and world missions. Some church plants have begun their dedication service by making a photo of their first Cooperative Program gift made through the TBC.

■ Takes time. There is no quick fix for getting out of the grave into which we have dug ourselves over many years.

If the next step for you is 1-5-1 Harvest Plants, please remember that all the materials you need to start are online and free of cost at [www.tbaptist.org/-harvest](http://www.tbaptist.org/-harvest). Also, be certain to consider all the free materials for More Life, an evangelistic guide (including a Hispanic version), in addition to a cell phone app in various languages.

Welch, retired pastor of First Church, Daytona Beach, FL, is associate executive director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention and a former two-term president of the Southern Baptist Convention. This column first appeared in the Baptist & Reflector newspaper. Edited for length.

## DIDLAKE

cont. from p.1

That was 32 years ago. "The department has diversified. We didn't handle as much back then. The name was changed to Men's Ministry to reflect the expanded responsibilities," Didlake recounted.

Among the major ministries currently overseen by the Men's Ministry Department are Disaster Relief, Central Hills Retreat, Royal Ambassadors, Criminal Justice, and Chaplaincy. In addition, Didlake and the department took on the task of writing the department's ministry materials after the Southern Baptist Convention's Brotherhood Commission was disbanded in 1997 and folded into the newly-created North American Mission Board.

The most visible function of the department is likely Disaster Relief, which has gone from a simple feeding operation at the beginning of Didlake's tenure to the massive operation that it is today - including a feeding unit that has grown to a capability of 20,000 meals per day and the initiation of cleanup and recovery operations.

Didlake is widely viewed among his peers as the dean of Disaster Relief in the Southern Baptist Convention. That work has taken him around the world, and into areas so dangerous that his mission and whereabouts had to be kept secret until he returned home.

Rusty Griffin, who was the consultant in the Brotherhood department at the time, started Disaster Relief under Paul Harrell. I came to the Brotherhood department after Rusty went to the SBC Brotherhood Commission.

"Disaster Relief started with a few pots and burners. Now, we have all commercial equipment and a self-sustain-

ing eighteen-wheeler with potable water and its own generator. Volunteers have grown from about 40 people to several thousand today," he said.

The most demanding Disaster Relief operation, in Didlake's mind, was Hurricane Katrina, a five-year effort that began mere hours after the record-setting storm hit and continued until the Mississippi Gulf Coast was on the path to recovery.

"That's also the disaster that will stick with me the longest. I remember making my way to Pass Christian the day after the storm and thinking, 'How long will this recovery take? Can we even do it?'"

Katrina also holds positive memories for him. "There was so much donated to that cause. There were over 100,000 volunteers. Baptist disaster teams came from all 50 states to help."

The most satisfying response for Didlake? The 9/11 response, when Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers flooded New York City from September to June in response to the devastating terrorist attack.

"I believe that was really when Southern Baptists gained respect as a national Disaster Relief organization, and Mississippi Baptists were very much a part of that," he said.

Didlake and his wife of 44 years, Marlene, a retired elementary educator, are moving to Spring City, TN, to be near their daughter Elizabeth and her son. They've already built a house there.

"I look forward to helping raise my grandson - and I can assure that will include some disaster relief training," Didlake said.

Didlake can be reached until July 31 at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. E-mail: [jdilake@mbcb.org](mailto:jdilake@mbcb.org).

## Truth is not relative.

Find it in the One who is the way, truth, and life.

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life.

From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name," (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

# THE VILLAGE VIEW



Dr. Rory Lee, Executive Director

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## GIFTS OF HONOR AND MEMORY

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals want to say thanks to others through this service. The Village View is a helpful medium. The Village View is a helpful medium. The Village View is a helpful medium.

FEBRUARY 2014

### MEMORIALS

Mrs. Glynn W. Smith  
"Dot's Boys"  
Mr. & Mrs. Clifton Porter  
Mr. & Mrs. Rocky Evans  
Mr. Max Parish  
Bill & Laurie Patterson  
Mr. James Smith  
Mr. & Mrs. B. R. Taylor  
Mrs. Norma Smith  
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McComb  
Nathan & Lorraine Spiers  
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Mr. & Mrs. Jesse P. Matthews  
Mr. Donald Tanner  
Rev. & Mrs. William B. Webb  
David Taylor  
Mr. & Mrs. Byron Kyle  
Jim Taylor  
Mr. & Mrs. Curtis A. Buchanan  
Mr. Robert Thames  
Mrs. Chrystelle Thames  
Mrs. Frances H. Thorne  
Mr. James R. Thorne  
Lisa Tolar  
Mr. & Mrs. Curtis A. Buchanan  
Mrs. Fay Tolar  
Mrs. Sue Robertson  
Mrs. Elouise Tynes  
Carole Tyrone & Paul Tynes  
Mr. & Mrs. Morris E. Newton, Jr.  
Fred Vance  
Mr. & Mrs. Byron Kyle

Mr. Ribbie Vance

Mr. & Mrs. Bobby Hannaford

Mrs. Ella Wactor

Stanton BC

Mrs. Gladys Ward

Ms. Joy W. Yates

Freddie Weeks

Mr. & Mrs. Ronnie Fortinberry

Charles B. West

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Williamson

Charles R. Whitehead

Mrs. Harriette T. Clarke

Mary Kathryn "Kat" Wiggers

Kathy, Jayne Kathryn & Andrew Denson

Dennis Williams

Mrs. Betty L. Hall

Terry Wayne Wright

Mr. & Mrs. C. B. Sledge

Callie B. Young

Mr. & Mrs. Rodney Bevil

MARCH 2014

### HONORS

Casey Clouse  
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry V. Helms  
Dorothy Long Gilbert  
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Pray  
J. L. Gipson  
Adult III SSC, N Columbia BC  
James Arrington Goff  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Goff  
Amber Metzger  
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry V. Helms  
Mrs. Eva Nell Milton  
Mr. & Mrs. Percy J. Peele  
Mattie Rials  
Dr. & Mrs. William H. Meyer  
Rev. Bill Tate  
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry V. Helms  
R. B. (Dunk) & Betty Wallace  
Mr. & Mrs. G. Don Geddie

Mr. & Mrs. Fred H. Blackledge  
Kenny Channell  
Bovina BC  
Audrey Coats  
Jean Moss Family  
Mrs. Audrey Coats  
Mrs. Elizabeth H. Smart  
Daisy Cook  
Mr. & Mrs. John C. McKelroy  
Mrs. Arvis Holt  
Mrs. Lena Crain  
Mr. & Mrs. Harold Lowery  
Mr. Tony Crosby  
Jimmy & Jo Jenkins  
Mr. Mickey Daughdrill  
Miss Lucy Mikell  
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis L. McPhail  
Jack T. Davis  
Gump Ole Men SSC & Deacons, Rawls Springs BC  
W. Fred Davis  
Frank & Sandra Crosthwait  
Tyler Harry Dykes  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert L. Lassiter, Jr.  
Mr. Joe Edwards  
Mr. & Mrs. Fred H. Blackledge  
Wendell Edwards  
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur D. Burnett  
Kerry England  
Ms. Lawanda Chandler  
Mrs. Paula England  
Jimmy & Jo Jenkins  
Cindy McDill Fetter  
Mr. & Mrs. B. R. Taylor  
Mr. B. P. Gates  
Larry & Pam Gneini  
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Thomas  
Mr. Doug Gerald  
Dr. & Mrs. Victor L. Walsh  
Dorothy Gilbert  
Dr. & Mrs. William H. Meyer  
Mrs. Alicia Goodnite  
Mike, Sandra & Abbey Wilson  
James Gordon  
Mrs. Ruth B. Gordon  
James Louis H. mric  
Mrs. E. J. Grisham, Sr.  
Herbert M. Hargott  
Cecil & Penny Washington  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank O. Crosthwait, Jr.

MARCH 2014

### MEMORIALS

Ricky Allen  
Eunice SSC, Hurley BC  
Kent Babb  
Stanton BC  
Lillian Baker  
Pat & Tommy House  
Dr. Charles Bass  
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry M. Howell  
Harold Bates  
Mr. & Mrs. Byron Dean  
Hellen Walker Beall  
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Tillman  
Lanell Woods  
Lisa Ann Berryhill  
Mr. Andrew Denson  
Don Biedenbarn  
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Oakes  
Brice Cannon Bishop  
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Oakes  
Mrs. Marjorie Boler  
Mr. & Mrs. Clifton Porter  
Rudolph Bonds  
Ms. Becky B. Roberts  
Pat Kelly Brooks  
Mr. & Mrs. Dale Ramsey  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Hollingsworth  
Karlanna Brumfield  
Mr. & Mrs. Barney J. Albritton  
Ms. Patsy Brumfield  
Dr. & Mrs. Victor L. Walsh  
Tyler Brumfield  
Stanton BC  
Jahazel Buckley  
Mr. Ted Buckley  
Mr. Rube Burroughs  
Rev. & Mrs. William E. Webb  
Mrs. Emily Causey  
Mr. & Mrs. Fred H. Blackledge  
Kenny Channell  
Bovina BC  
Audrey Coats  
Jean Moss Family  
Mrs. Audrey Coats  
Mrs. Elizabeth H. Smart  
Daisy Cook  
Mr. & Mrs. John C. McKelroy  
Mrs. Arvis Holt  
Mrs. Lena Crain  
Mr. & Mrs. Harold Lowery  
Mr. Tony Crosby  
Jimmy & Jo Jenkins  
Mr. Mickey Daughdrill  
Miss Lucy Mikell  
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis L. McPhail  
Jack T. Davis  
Gump Ole Men SSC & Deacons, Rawls Springs BC  
W. Fred Davis  
Frank & Sandra Crosthwait  
Tyler Harry Dykes  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert L. Lassiter, Jr.  
Mr. Joe Edwards  
Mr. & Mrs. Fred H. Blackledge  
Wendell Edwards  
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur D. Burnett  
Kerry England  
Ms. Lawanda Chandler  
Mrs. Paula England  
Jimmy & Jo Jenkins  
Cindy McDill Fetter  
Mr. & Mrs. B. R. Taylor  
Mr. B. P. Gates  
Larry & Pam Gneini  
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Thomas  
Mr. Doug Gerald  
Dr. & Mrs. Victor L. Walsh  
Dorothy Gilbert  
Dr. & Mrs. William H. Meyer  
Mrs. Alicia Goodnite  
Mike, Sandra & Abbey Wilson  
James Gordon  
Mrs. Ruth B. Gordon  
James Louis H. mric  
Mrs. E. J. Grisham, Sr.  
Herbert M. Hargott  
Cecil & Penny Washington  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank O. Crosthwait, Jr.

Volunteers from  
**BRIDGEWAY  
BAPTIST  
CHURCH, MT.  
PLEASANT,**  
spent a day  
helping with a  
landscaping  
project at the  
Powell-Walley  
Campus in  
Waynesboro.

Mrs. Vera M. Harpole  
Earl & Linda Monk  
Mr. Woodrow W. Harpole  
Mrs. Helen T. Cade  
Palmer & Becky Manning  
LaFerne Monk  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Woodfin  
Father of Jim Harrell  
Herman & Sharon Dungan  
Mr. Clyde Harthcock  
Jimmy & Jo Jenkins  
Mr. Mike Hawkins  
Bro. Higdon Herrington  
Mrs. Marion Hailey Henry  
Jimmy & Jo Jenkins  
Elaine Herring  
Mr. W. B. Herring  
Mrs. Dorothy Hightower  
Mr. & Mrs. C. B. Sledge  
Mrs. Faye Hill  
Barry & Annie Ruth Dillard  
Marion Hodges  
FBC Mathiston  
Ned Holder  
Cecil & Penny Washington  
Gladys Hurst  
Herman & Sharon Dungan  
Donald James  
Bradford Chapel BC  
Ann Jefcoat  
Mr. & Mrs. Warren Strickland  
Vivian Ruth Jenkins  
Mr. & Mrs. Hubert T. Kendrick  
Vernelle Jones  
Cecil & Penny Washington  
Lois Kennedy  
Ms. Birtle M. Kennedy  
Ms. Alma Lea Lancon  
Dr. & Mrs. Victor L. Walsh  
Rebekah Lay  
Ms. Julie H. Halfacre  
Mr. & Mrs. John W. Pope  
Dale Ledbetter  
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Duncan  
David Nathan Legge  
Mr. Ray Legg  
Cyrus Lewallen  
Mr. & Mrs. Ernest L. Scruggs  
Jean Lyons  
Mr. & Mrs. Brian W. Manning  
Mr. Robert MacKenzie  
Jimmy & Jo Jenkins  
Burlon Matthews  
Mrs. E. J. Grisham, Sr.  
Mary Lee May  
Mr. & Mrs. James Crosby  
Mrs. Kathryn McCarty

Jimmy & Jo Jenkins  
Ms. Virginia McDonald  
Mr. & Mrs. Barney J. Albritton  
Mr. James McElroy  
Ms. Barbara A. Brown  
Ancil McFall  
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Bell  
Mrs. Wilma Brown  
Mr. & Mrs. Ronnie Brown  
Mr. & Mrs. George Vanlandingham  
Mr. Robert (Bob) E. McGhee, Sr.  
Dr. & Mrs. Victor L. Walsh  
Young at Heart Singers FBC  
McComb  
Mrs. Virginia S. Marcus  
Mr. Jimmy McGhee  
Mrs. Glenda C. Fry  
Deborah LeAnn McLeod  
Ms. Mary Dee Fairchild  
Miss Jaime Mills  
Dr. & Mrs. Victor L. Walsh  
Ms. Essie Montgomery  
Mr. & Mrs. Barney J. Albritton  
Mr. W. C. Morris  
Jimmy & Jo Jenkins  
Mrs. Mickey Mosley  
Jimmy & Jo Jenkins  
Linda Nelson  
Bill & Marilyn Sirmion  
Mr. Alvin Monroe Newell, Sr.  
Adult 7 SS Dept, FBC McComb  
Bill and Carolyn Carter  
Charles and Virgie Dunagin  
Dr. & Mrs. Victor L. Walsh  
Dr. & Mrs. William H. Meyer  
Jimmy & JoAnn Carruth  
Mr. & Mrs. Cecil Boyd  
Mr. & Mrs. Eddie G. Hammons  
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Felder  
Mr. & Mrs. Gary L. Jacobs  
Mr. & Mrs. Gene Jones  
Mr. & Mrs. James E. Clark  
Mr. & Mrs. Keith Starrett  
Mr. & Mrs. Randall Howell  
Mr. & Mrs. Marion H. Johnston  
Mr. & Mrs. Page Ogden  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert T. McIntyre  
Mr. & Mrs. Ron D. Craddock  
Mr. & Mrs. Shelton Little  
Mrs. Betty Jo Hewitt  
Mrs. Glenda C. Fry  
Mrs. Hayley Hammon  
The Hammon Social Group  
Mrs. Jep S. Bro &  
Mrs. Mattie Rials  
Mrs. Mittie Kay Smith

Ms. Beverly Hopper and Family  
Sanford & Kitty Sheffield  
Tony & Sylvia Carter Wilberding  
W.J. Carter, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Hoyt E. Case  
Mr. & Mrs. Carroll Polk  
Mr. & Mrs. Dale E. Martin  
Mr. & Mrs. Dan L. Wells, Jr.  
Mrs. Virginia S. Marcus  
Ms. Ilene N. Krohn, Susan  
Huey & Family  
Rev. & Mrs. Ed Sudduth  
Larry & Shirley Newell  
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Roberts  
Ms. Lynne G. Simmons  
Ms. Carlie Nichols  
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Thomas  
Charles Nolan  
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Oakes  
Edward D. Nunery  
Mrs. Virginia S. Marcus  
Dr. Jack L. Nunery  
Mr. & Mrs. Jennings Dixon  
Mary Lee Odom  
Mr. & Mrs. Hubert T. Kendrick  
Calvin Oglesby  
Mr. & Mrs. Percy J. Peele  
Mrs. Sylvia Oldham  
Enid Lake BC  
Mr. & Mrs. Allen C. Anthony  
Mr. James Oswald  
Jimmy & Jo Jenkins  
Ella Owens  
Mr. & Mrs. Larry F. Franklin  
Jesse Palmer  
FBC Mathiston  
Mrs. Judy Patterson  
Mrs. Hershel G. Turner  
Pat Patterson  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Hollingsworth  
Charles Paulk  
Billy & Tanya Moore  
Ell Payne  
Eunice SSC, Hurley BC  
Grover & Frances Allen  
Mrs. Judy Peavey  
Mr. & Mrs. James Crosby  
Mrs. Louise W. Allgood  
Mrs. Judy Vance Pitts  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Dew  
Mrs. Betty Margaret Prewitt  
Mrs. Martha Ann May Klaus  
Mrs. Kathryn Rainwater  
Jimmy & Jo Jenkins  
Karen Randall  
Mrs. Gail Kirkland





## Hopeful Faith: The Hope of New Worship • Ezekiel 43:1-12

The temple in Jerusalem had been destroyed. Many of the Jews had been deported to Babylon. The nation was in ruins, yet God was not through with His rebellious chosen people. The prophet Ezekiel had another vision recorded in Ezekiel 43. In this vision the Lord returned to the Temple in dramatic fashion. Ezekiel saw this in his vision though he knew the actual Temple had been destroyed. God was revealing that He was not finished with Israel. One day the Temple would again be open for worship of the one true Almighty God.

The Lord God Almighty told the prophet Ezekiel exactly how the temple was to be rebuilt and the conditions for worship to be restored. As he had done with Moses and the Tabernacle, and David and the original temple, God gave exact dimensions to Ezekiel for the rebuilding of the Temple. In the Old Testament law God gave specific instructions about the temple and how they were to worship. He told specific details about which animals were to be sacrificed for each sin, as well as specific dimensions and shapes of the altar and the Temple.

In the New Testament Jesus said God is a spirit and those who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and truth. John 4:23

reads, "But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him," (KJV). The Father continually seeks people who will truly worship Him in spirit and in truth.

Sadly many of our churches are more interested in the style of worship than its content. Today's church members are more focused on what songs we sing and which instruments play than in true worship in spirit and in truth.

God is far more interested in our hearts than in who wrote the song and in which decade or century. The apostle Paul wrote that our bodies are now the temple of the Holy Spirit. God still demands worship a certain way, but now it is within us instead of at a certain place. Hebrews 13 calls it the sacrifice of praise. Hebrews 13:12,15-16 reads, "Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanc-

tify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate. By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name. But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased, (KJV). Jesus is worthy of our worship by His sacrifice. So we offer our sacrifice of worship and we serve Him.

In chapter 43 God told the prophet Eze-

kiel that the people must repent before worship resumes. True worship comes from clean, repentant hearts. 1 Timothy

2:8 reveals, "I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting" (KJV). God is interested in men lifting holy hands when they pray. He sees our hearts and demands pure lives for worship.

God demands that repentance precedes

worship. Lifting holy hands before the Lord means that our hands are clean and that we surrender our will to His. In Ezekiel 43:1-12 we learn that God is worthy of our worship, that repentance precedes worship and that genuine worship results in a holy life. While each of us may have a preference as to what type of music we like, God demands purity, holiness, and a life lived for Him. We know from history that the Temple was rebuilt, that the sacrificial system was restored, and that worship continued until 70 A.D. when the Romans destroyed the Temple the last time.

Now believers are the body of Christ and the temple of the Holy Spirit. God still demands repentance and a holy life for genuine worship to occur. Just as the Lord gave Israel another chance, He continually gives each of us a second and third chance through our repentance and His restoration. This week, regardless of who wrote the songs you sing in worship, focus on the words and on the restoring work of God's amazing grace. Worship Him in spirit and in truth.

Henson is pastor of Oakdale Church, Brandon.



### Explore the Bible

with Rick Henson

## Active Faith • 1 Peter 1:14-19, 22-25

Holiness—is it a choice or a command? The Beloved Disciple wrote, "... And His commandments are not burdensome" (1 John 5:3b). Commandments are given to protect and bring us to His ultimate good. The moment you placed your faith in Christ you were no longer free to live as you once lived. You were bought with a price and you are to live with hope, holiness and in fear of God. A. W. Tozer writes, "True faith is not passive but active. It requires that we meet certain conditions; that we allow the teachings of Christ to dominate our total lives from the moment we believe. The man of saving faith must be willing to be different from others. The effort to enjoy the benefits of redemption while enmeshed in the world is futile. We must choose one or the other; and faith quickly makes its choice, one from which there is no retreat."

Holiness, God's chief attribute, is also the one-word description of the Christian life—a command. Read 1 Peter 1:14-16 carefully. We are called to be set apart, different; our lives are not based upon worldly standards, but on God's attributes and biblical principles. We are not to be conformed to this world, but transformed by renewing our minds (Rom. 12:2). This is not something you can muster up! Notice the phrase, "It is written!" God's Word is our authority. The

Word reveals God's mind, so we should learn it; God's heart, so we should love it; God's will, so we should live it. Our whole being—mind, will, and heart—should be controlled by the Word of God" (Warren Wiersbe, *Be Hopeful*, page 36). The power of the Holy Spirit teaching, leading, convicting, guiding and comforting is what transforms our lives, making us different. This is a life-long process; a command calling you to conform your conduct to reflect Christ.

Nancy Leigh DeMoss has written a book entitled *Holiness*. In Chapter 2, "The Motivation for Holiness", she expounds upon "seven powerful biblical motivations for holy living—incentives that have been helpful in her personal pursuit of holiness. We are to live holy lives Because God is Holy; Because Holiness is God's Stated Goal for Every Believer; Because Jesus Died to Deliver Us from Sin; Because We Are Saints; Because Our Intimacy with God Depends

On It; Because We Are Going to Live Eternally in a Holy City; Because the Well-Being of Others Depends on It" (©2004, Nancy Leigh DeMoss, Moody Publishers).

Another aspect of holiness is to live in fear and reverence for God, 1 Peter 1:17-21. As a Believer, God is your Gracious Heavenly Father. Think upon His attributes—Holy, Loving, Just, Forgiving, Wise, and Faithful—therefore you are to live respecting and honoring Him. Remember Peter is writing to encourage those being persecuted. Their lives were to reflect this relation-

ship to God so that others would see Christ. This world is not your home, it is fading, and only what is done for eternity matters. Remember you were redeemed, not with silver or gold which was something used to pay for one's bondage-perishable. But you were redeemed with the precious blood... "so that your faith and hope are in God" (v. 21)—imperishable.

Active faith means daily choosing to live life based upon the call to be holy as He is holy. It means bowing to Him out of fear and reverence and it means our conduct is to display love and obedience. In the final section, verses 22-25, we see a command to fervently love one another. This means to literally stretch love to the limits. Only those who are purified, saved, have this ability. Again, this comes through the Holy Spirit. As we close this chapter, Peter's final admonishment is to live active holy lives in obedience to the truth which is by the enduring Word. Psalm 119:160 states, "The sum of Your word is truth, and every one of Your righteous ordinances is everlasting" (NKJV).

Take time this week to examine your life. Are you truly in Christ? Are you actively pursuing a life of holiness? We all come short. Take time to repent, pray, and read the Word. Begin with Psalm 51 and as a prayer sing this song unto the Lord... "Change my heart, O God, Make it every true, Change my heart, O God, may I be like You. You are the potter, I am the clay; Mold me and make me, This is what I pray..." (Change my Heart, O God, by Eddie Espinosa, ©1982).

Leathers is a member of First Church, Madison.

### Bible Studies for Life

with Laura Leathers



## Revivals & Homecomings

► **Victory Church, Bassfield:** Revival, July 20 - 23; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Jeff Floyd and Daniel Lee, leaders; Nathan Barber, pastor.

► **First Church, Sartartia:** Homecoming, July 20; service, 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch; Carl Mills, speaker; Mr. and Mrs. Tim Gordon, music.

► **Pleasant Grove Church, Brookhaven:** Revival, July 20 - 25; Sun., Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Fri., 7 p.m.; Don Gann, speaker; Justin Walker, music.

► **West McComb Church, Pike Association:** Homecoming and revival, July 20 - 23; Sun., services, 8:30 and 11, followed by dinner on the grounds and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 21 - 23, 7 p.m.; Gene Douglas, speaker; Todd McDaniel, music; Vann Windom, pastor.

► **Mt. Olivet Church, Scott County:** Homecoming, July 20; services, 10:30 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds; Andy Boles, speaker.

► **Union Seminary Church,**

**Laurel:** Homecoming, July 20; service, 11 a.m., followed by lunch and cemetery offering.

► **Calvary Church, Bogue Chitto:** Revival, July 20 - 24; Larry LeBlanc, speaker; Craig Richardson, music; Hal Hatten, pastor.

► **New Home Church, Scott Association:** Revival, July 20 - 23; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by lunch; Mon. - Wed., 7:30 p.m.; Barry Corbett, speaker; Bill Clark, music; Billy McKay, pastor.

► **Jones Chapel Church, Nettleton:** Revival, July 21 - 25; 7 p.m. nightly; Randy Hamilton, speaker.

► **West Church, West:** Revival, July 23 - 25; 7 p.m. nightly; Lynn Cain, speaker; James Burrell, pastor.

► **Heucks Retreat Church, Brookhaven:** Homecoming, July 20; service, 10 a.m., followed by fellowship meal; Matthew Bishop, speaker; Mike Britt, music.

## Just for the Record



**NEWHEBRON CHURCH, NEWHEBRON,** recognizes its children and youth Bible drillers.

### In other Church News:

► **Ridgecrest Church, Madison,** is hosting Back to Mayberry Aug. 1. Supper, 5 p.m.; show, 6 p.m. Tickets for supper and show, \$15; show only, \$10. Tickets available through the church office at (601) 853-1090 or the Faith InDeed office at (601) 853-0393.

► **Kevin Jackson, pastor of Grace Church, Grenada,** has penned *The Prayer of Jesus* in which he explains and applies the simple model for prayer which Jesus taught His original disciples for a more consistent prayer life. The book is available at [amazon.com/dp/BooKC8FVWC](http://amazon.com/dp/BooKC8FVWC).



**Matt and Karen Buckles** celebrated 10 years as pastor and wife at **FIRST CHURCH, VICKSBURG,** June 28. The Buckles were recognized with a gift June 22 and a reception June 25. Shown are the Buckles with deacon chairman Doug Hassell.



**FIRST CHURCH, HOLLY SPRINGS** pastor Joe Lusby and Pat Stubbs, needleworker, are shown with a commemorative plaque presented to the church on the 125th anniversary of Woman's Missionary Union. Stubbs was one of several women who completed a needlepoint tapestry that was presented to the Mississippi Baptist Convention in 1983.



**MT. OLIVET CHURCH, SCOTT COUNTY,** held a baby dedication service June 22 with pastor Andy Boles. Shown, from left, are Jonathan and Breanne Gatewood with Paislee; Stephanie Thrash with Blayze, Nikki Pierce with Danyne Rose, Savannah and Damien Darby with Kameron and Kyra.



**BETHEL CHURCH, BOGUE CHITTO,** hosted a church-wide Independence Day celebration with a cookout and fireworks July 4.



**BELEN CHURCH, BELEN,** gave a Bible to kindergarten graduate Chloe Sellers. Shown are pastor Reggie Howell and Chloe.



Members of **OAK HILL CHURCH, MERIDIAN,** recently went to the Dominican Republic to share Christ.



The youth of **NESHOBA CHURCH, UNION,** attended Cross-over Baltimore in June, with 16 youth and 4 adults participating. The group held a block party at Colonial Church, with puppets, face painting, and singing. Two hundred unchurched families participated with 10 professions of faith.